

**The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Internet Application**

In an effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, a special virtual meeting was called to order by President Copeland following one public hearing. Roll call was answered by Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

The invocation was offered by Mr. Copeland, who then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, members approved the minutes of the January 5, 2021, Public Hearings and Legislative Meeting as presented.

FIRST READINGS—ORDINANCES

The following legislation was read by title only for the first time and requires presentation at a second regular meeting before vote on passage:

7-21 Authorizing a contribution to the Springfield Foundation in the amount of \$50,000.00, toward the Columbia Street Cemetery Project, which seeks to restore the Columbia Street Cemetery aka the Springfield Burial Grounds.

Dr. Estrop asked for additional information on the work proposed for the cemetery. City Manager Heck described the cemetery which has graves dating back to the Revolutionary War. A local group is raising funds for repairing monuments and adding features to make it enjoyable to visit. Planned improvements include ornate fencing, stone walls, and walking paths. Mr. Heck noted the City's contribution of \$50,000 would be part of the group's \$700,000 overall project. The City owns and maintains the cemetery, but the plan is to put the property in a limited liability corporation to provide for ongoing maintenance.

Dr. Estrop congratulated those involved with the project and noted the project is a good private/public partnership.

Mr. Copeland spoke on Wittenberg University faculty and student involvement with the project. Mr. Heck noted the discovery of the original walking paths by Wittenberg involvement.

Mr. Rue thanked the group to maintain the cemetery's historical value.

Mrs. Chilton asked if the cemetery would remain open to the public, and Mr. Heck indicated the new fencing is decorative only and the cemetery will be open with educational markers.

18-17 Authorizing the exercise of the City's option to renew the contract with Dayton Sweeping Service, Inc., dba DSS Sweeping Service, Inc., for the sweeping and cleaning of City streets, for an amount not to exceed \$165,307.00.

17-17 Authorizing the exercise of the City's option to renew the contract with The Endurance Group LLC dba Emerald Green Lawn & Landscape Pros, for the mowing of boulevards, for an amount not to exceed \$37,400.02.

8-21 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc., for the purchase of Sodium Hypochlorite for use by the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant for a period of one (1) year with an option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods, for an amount not to exceed \$82,800.00.

9-21 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Republic Services of Ohio Hauling LLC for the removal of catch basin debris/trash and grit for a period of three (3) years with an option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods, for an amount not to exceed \$284,152.96 for the initial three-year period.

~~~~~ Next City Commission meeting: February 2, 2021. ~~~~~

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**211-20            Ordinance No. 21-10: To amend Ordinance No. 91-90, passed March 12, 1991, and commonly known as the Codified Ordinances of The City of Springfield, Ohio, by repealing existing Zoning Code Section 1102.02(r)(9) pertaining to the combined definition of a restaurant, drive-in/carryout-out and replacing it with new sections 1102.02(r)(9) titled Restaurant, drive-in and 1102.02(r)(10) titled Restaurant, Carryout.**

Mrs. Chilton asked staff to explain the impact of the proposed language change. Planning, Zoning and Code Administrator Thompson explained separating the definitions of drive-in and carryout restaurants would allow carryout restaurants to exist where drive-in restaurants are prohibited.

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**212-20      Ordinance No. 21-11: To amend Ordinance No. 91-90, passed March 12, 1991, and commonly known as the Codified Ordinances of The City of Springfield, Ohio, by repealing existing Zoning Code Section 1175.01 pertaining to rezoning requirements upon annexation and replacing it with new Section 1175.01 titled Annexation.**

Dr. Estrop asked for additional information on the proposed language change. Mr. Thompson explained current annexation procedures allow an annexed property to retain its township zoning. The proposed language would authorize the assignment of city zoning and sign districts to a property upon annexation.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**213-20      Ordinance No. 21-12: Amending the Zoning Map of Springfield, Ohio by rezoning 0.53 acre at 716, 718 and 726 Court Street, Springfield, Ohio from CN-2, Neighborhood Commercial District to CC-2, Community Commercial District.**

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

### **EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**243-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-13: Amending the Zoning Map of Springfield, Ohio, by rezoning 4.35 acres at 1315 West High Street, Springfield, Ohio from G, Green Space, Park, and School District to RM-12, Low-Density, Multi-Family Residence District; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Mr. O'Neill asked if the proposed senior housing development planned for the rezoned property would be subsidized housing. Mr. Heck explained the applicant plans to apply for state tax credit in February. This rezoning request came to commissioners for emergency consideration due to timing of the state application period.

Mrs. Chilton asked if this project is in competition with the Community Gardens project. Mr. Heck stated both projects are for senior housing and would be part of the competitive application process along with an Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) project for funding.

Mr. John Stock, Stock Development Company, stated the two senior housing projects are similar and both projects could be funded if scored well in the application process.

Mr. Heck noted the IHN project is for permanent supportive housing, not senior housing.

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**10-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-14: Confirming and approving the transfer of monies among various funds; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Mrs. Chilton noted one project on the funding list as the parking garage and asked how long the parking garage would be free for citizens. Mr. Heck stated the parking garage would free for everyone in 2021.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**11-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-15: Providing for Supplemental Appropriations within various funds; and declaring an emergency therein.**

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**12-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-16: Confirming purchases and the obtaining of services for the City and providing for payments therefor; and declaring an emergency therein.**

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**128-19      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-17: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the Fare Collection Equipment Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration, to increase the grant in an amount not to exceed \$1,324,000.00 for the purchase of five medium-duty buses, two support vehicles and shop equipment; authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and the Director of Finance to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said grant amendment and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for a timeline for the new equipment. Finance Director Beckdahl stated the equipment upon receipt and inspection would be put into use—hopefully in the first quarter of 2021. Mr. Heck added many industries are struggling with supply chain issues, so delivery could be impacted.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**13-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-18: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the CARES Act Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration, to increase the grant in an amount not to exceed \$574,000.00 for preventive maintenance and planning activities; authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and the Director of Finance to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said grant amendment and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for confirmation that no local match is required for this grant. Mr. Beckdahl stated no local match is required and explained the amendment is an additional \$574,000 added to the initial CARES award of \$1.77 million already received.

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**14-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-19: Authorizing a contribution to the Community Improvement Corporation ("CIC") in the amount of \$25,000.00, toward the Expand Greater Springfield campaign, which focuses on workforce development and job creation activities in the Springfield community; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Dr. Estrop spoke on the critical impact of job creation and workforce development for the area.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**15-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-20: Authorizing the acceptance of a donation from the Defense Logistics Agency of a used iRobot, Model #510 Packbot with an estimated new-item value of \$77,060.00; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Police Chief Graf described the iRobot's features including portability, camera functions, stair-climbing ability, and claw-like arms. The department has one existing unit and the additional unit will be useful for officer safety in various situations. The subject robot is a military surplus item is available at no cost.

Mr. O'Neill asked if these units are used for handling explosives, and Chief Graf said that they can be used for that purpose.

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**12-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-21: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Property Registration Champions, LLC ("ProChamps") to extend the contract period to February 11, 2022; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Mrs. Chilton asked if property owners are able to pay the registration fees via a cell phone. Mr. Thompson explained the subject amendment renews the contract with ProChamps to administer the Vacant Property Registry. The registration process is mobile-friendly through their website, [www.prochamps.com](http://www.prochamps.com). Questions may be directed locally to Jeremy Leist, Code Enforcement Coordinator, at 937-324-7744.

Dr. Estrop commented that COVID-19 pandemic began as the new program was beginning in early 2020. Mr. Thompson explained the program was implemented despite the pandemic with 340 vacant properties registered and 737 identified but not registered. Civil fines were issued in the fall to owners who did not register. A computer kiosk was planned to assist owners in registering at City Hall, but the building has been closed to the public during the pandemic. Staff hopes to implement the kiosk when regular operations resume.

Mr. Heck reminded commissioners the primary goal of registering vacant properties is for the safety of first responders who access the buildings. Staff works with the Clark County Auditor to flag the properties for emergency response dispatchers.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

### **NEW ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA: ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

**16-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-22: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a CARES Act Subgrant Agreement with the Clark County, Ohio Board of County Commissioners ("County"); and declaring an emergency therein.**

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**17-21      Emergency Ordinance No. 21-23: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Funding Agreement with Interfaith Hospitality Network of Springfield, Inc. ("IHN") for homeless shelter operations; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Upon request of Mr. Copeland, Community Development Director Meadows updated commissioners on the current number of homeless citizens on the waiting list for shelter which is going down compared to the past several months. Various agencies are assisting IHN with additional hotel rooms for use as non-congregate housing solutions.

Mr. Copeland thanked the IHN staff for their efforts.

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance was passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

### **NEW ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA: RESOLUTION**

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

**18-21      Resolution No. 6108: Reappointing Michael Kranz to the Mediation Board.**

Mr. Copeland thanked Captain Kranz for serving on the board.

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Rue, the resolution was adopted.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

### **COMMENTS**

**89-20**      Dr. Estrop asked Mr. Heck and Finance Director Beckdahl to provide updates on city operations and finances.

Mr. Heck stated the number of positive cases and quarantined employees continues to improve from the previous two weeks and stated operations continue normally. Mr. Heck announced the February 2 and 16, 2021, City Commission meetings would continue to be virtual. As the vaccine is distributed more widely, having in-person meetings may be implemented once again.

Mr. Beckdahl reported the City's finances finished in 2020 better than expected. January numbers were down approximately 2.5 percent, but the numbers are too early to actually compare to the previous year.

Mr. Copeland stated local businesses continuing to work has a positive impact.

**134-20**      Mr. Heck also spoke on the South Limestone redevelopment plan and staff continues to work with the developer Dillin Inc.

**184-20**      Mr. Heck stated the public comment period for the South Limestone corridor project ended, but the detailed design phase will begin incorporating the comments received.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**55-20**      Minutes of the December 14, 2020, meeting of the National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board.

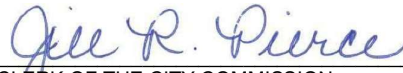
**201-20**      File-stamped copy of Ordinance No. 201-20 as filed with the Clark County Auditor and Recorder.

~~~~~

There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION